

and the gentlemen he works for fought the union and killed it. There are about 3,000 chambermaids in Chicago. Also they are many thousand domestic servants. They all should be organized.

"State laws do them no good unless they are organized. They are afraid of their jobs and can't get laws enforced unless they have their union back of them. Every law our union stood for at Springfield was opposed by the employers."

Edward T. Bent for the Illinois Coal Operators' Ass'n proved the most serious, thoughtful witness thus far offered by the employing interests. He said there are three kinds of strikes among miners: (1) The local revolt to impose demands sanctioned by the state or international union. (2) Independent action, where the dispute has been taken up in the proper way before the joint board of miners and operators and the miners' board gives notice of a shutdown before an agreement is effected. (3) A general suspension at expiration of contracts. He muck-raked the mining industry with these facts:

The mines operate in Illinois an average of 170 days in a year and the pay and work of miners is not regular as it ought to be. Miners have a right to be restless under the conditions. In the Illinois mining industry are 25,000 more men than needed. Railway and other interests are sinking too many new mines and wasting enormous amounts of coal. There were 17 failures of mining companies in Illinois last year.

To improve the conditions he advises: An arbitration act like Canada's, calling for public investigation before there can be a strike. Wider government regulation of mines to stop waste. Pass the German law which forbids opening of a new mine except by consent of government experts.

"Whenever there is a large influx of non-English speaking workers

from Southern Europe, there is danger," said Bent. "The men who translate for them mis-translate. Wherever our association finds an undue percentage of these foreigners there is also an undue disregard for contracts."

Duncan McDonald, secretary-treasurer Illinois Mine Workers, said he sees no absolute remedy for the terrific conditions in mining fields except government ownership.

"The C. S. Coal Company is running a vicious loan shark game," he said. "They loan money to workers between pay days and charge 10 per cent interest. It should be a crime for a company to do this."

"Stockholders live away from mines and are not interested in those who work the mines."

"We are running eight co-operative stores now. In time we hope to own and run co-operative mines. All the co-operative stores are a success. They sell at regular prices, the same as other stores and rebate to the purchasers in proportion to amount purchased."

#### HOYNE THREATENS CRIMINAL PROSECUTION ON McCORMICK

State's Att'y Maclay Hoyne threatens criminal prosecution of President Alexander A. McCormick of the county board for obstructing the state's attorney's office by vetoing bills from there. Hoyne declares that it is holding up the investigation of the defunct LaSalle Street Bank and blames McCormick for the collapse of his assistant, Charles C. Case, who had charge of the bank mixup.

"He is just as responsible for Mr. Case's condition as thought he brought it about with that end in view," said Mr. Hoyne. "Because bills were held up by McCormick, Mr. Case was forced to work on the books of the bank, doing the work of a bookkeeper and expert accountant. He worked until he collapsed."

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